

MALAYA

An Account of its People, Flora and Fauna

By

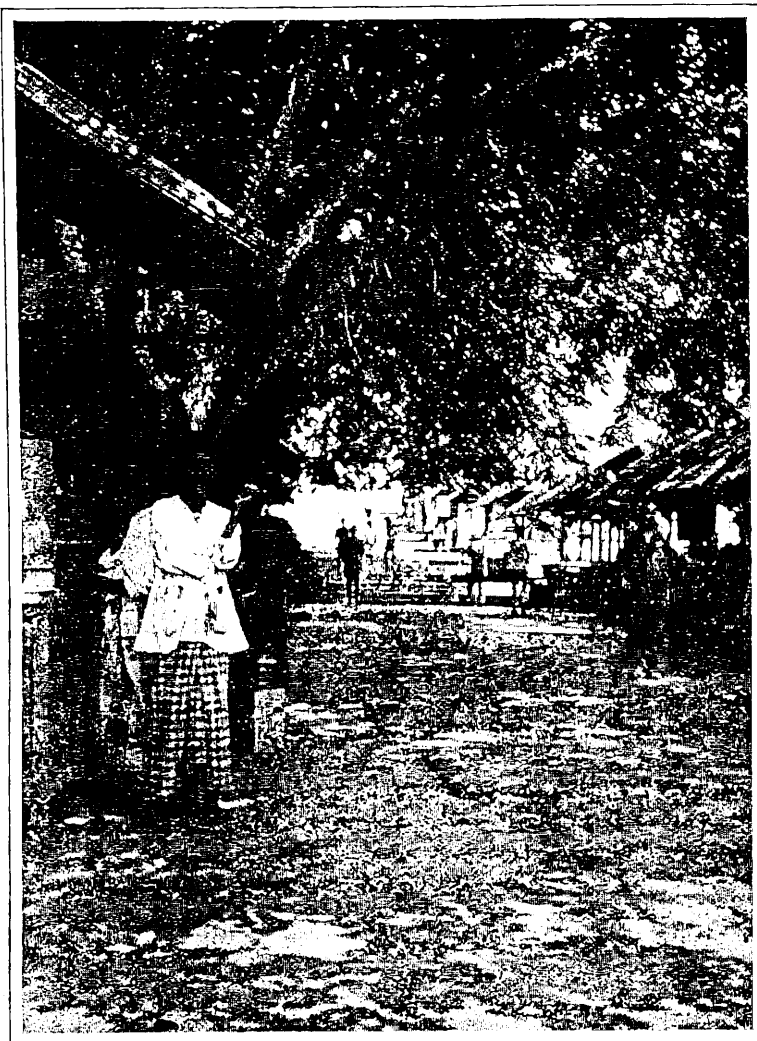
Major C. M. ENRIQUEZ, F.R.G.S.

2/20 BURMA RIFLES

("THEOPHILUS")

"Berlayer angan angan"

("Sail with me to those Castles in Spain")



(F. W. Major)

WHERE TIME HAS PAUSED

At ease in his *Kampong*, the Malay, in mild reproof, watches the fret and worry of 1927. Blessed are they that live in *Kampongs*, for they shall have silk and cigars.



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Bornean form has a black head. The Malay Peninsula was formerly renowned for its snipe, but irrigation has to some extent spoiled the shooting of Krian. Peacock and the Fire-backed Pheasant are plentiful on the east coast.

105. The commonest birds of the deep jungle are various Hornbills with grotesque 'casques.' And there are some of exquisite beauty—the 'Red-billed Malkoha,'¹ the 'Peacock Pheasant,' the 'Giant Red-bearded Bee-eater'² and the 'Malay Fairy Blue Bird,'³ of which the whole upper plumage in the male is shining cobalt. It is impossible to describe the loveliness of these gay-plumaged birds in the twilight shadows of a Malayan forest. They are not commonly seen, but when they *are* one is lost in admiration.

106. The mammals have already been referred to in connection with their general distribution throughout the Archipelago. It is only necessary to say here that the Peninsula possesses elephant, rhinoceros, tapir, tiger, panther, bear, apes, monkeys, deer, mouse-deer and many kinds of squirrels, of which one, the 'Malay Pied Giant Squirrel,'⁴ is 33 inches long, and is

¹ *Zanclotomus javanicus*.

² *Nyctiornis amictus*.

³ *Irena cyanea*.

⁴ *Ratufa melanopepla peninsulæ*.

evidently allied to *Zahkai* of Burma and *Ratufa maxima* of Malabar. In 1925 a rhino that had been shot without licence near Taiping was confiscated by the Museum, and on examination proved to be *Sondaicus*, the one-horned species with a tessellated skin which used to range from Burma to Java, but which had been supposed for the last twenty years to be extinct. Tapir are protected, and occasionally wander down into the villages; and at Baling, in Kedah, one was domesticated some years ago and used in a plough. Tiger are rarely seen owing to the thickness of the jungle, but they are so numerous that in 1924 the reward for destroying them in the vicinity of Taiping had to be increased temporarily from \$25 to \$100. Several were shot: but one man-eater took over a dozen persons, killing one in the Chinese Temple of the town. They seem to prefer Chinese, and indeed cannibals tell us that cooked Chinaman is delicate.

107. There is a good deal of authentic information regarding tigers, well known to Malays, though not mentioned in the Natural History books. Harelipped Malays, for instance, can turn themselves into tigers. Deformed tigers are usually of saintly habits, and should not be molested; and for this reason Malays leave their kris at home as a sign of good faith when a maimed tiger is about. Tiger are accom-

panied by birds with a peculiar whistle, which I have heard in the forests of Sĕlama. I was out after that splendid moth *Nyctalemnon patroclus*, armed only with a net; and the tiger's proximity very seriously cramped my style. In such circumstances Malays will not mention the word 'tiger' (another form of 'taboo,' I suppose), but speak of him as 'My Lord.' Frightful stories are told of tigers entering houses, and playing with their victims as a cat with mice, though it must not be supposed from such tales that Malays are terribly afraid of tigers. The contrary is often enough the case, and Malays have been known to drive them off with stones, though they will never follow them into long grass. But it does seem that tigers are fiercer in Malaya than in Burma, where they are little feared. One of my own Kachin riflemen shot a tiger with 'No. 4' shot: another tackled one with a dah and got his arm broken: and recently some Kachin villagers killed one with nothing in their hands but sticks.¹

¹ *A Burmese Arcady*, pages 193-4.

108. Slightly above the animals, but only very slightly, comes Primitive Man; and his claim to elevation rests chiefly on his superior dirt and destructiveness.

109. The Wild Tribes of the Malay Peninsula come under three main heads: *Semang*, who are a Negroid type: *Sakai*, who are believed to be a Dravido-Australian race: and *Jakun*, who are Proto (or Primitive) Malays.

110. Of these, the Semang Negritos are the earliest inhabitants of the Peninsula of whom anything is known: and though it does not at all follow that the most primitive people are necessarily the first arrivals, it appears to be so in this case. There is no evidence of linguistic relationship between the Negritos of Malaya and those of the Andamans, but the period for which the few existing Negrito communities have been separated from each other must be very great.

111. In spite of Skeat and Blagden's voluminous and extremely ill-arranged *Pagan Races*, very little useful information is available about the Semang. They are dark, with woolly hair, and flat, spreading noses, feeble chins, and lips often everted: and sometimes they are almost pigmies in size. But for a bark loin-cloth, they are naked; and, in common with